

1987-88 Shocker Basketball Outlook

If last season was labeled a rebuilding year at Wichita State — and most observers around the Missouri Valley Conference agreed it was — then Coach Eddie Fogler and the Shockers would gladly accept such a tag again in 1987-88.

For all Fogler did as a rookie coach in 1986-87 was turn around Wichita State's fortunes by guiding the Shockers to 22 victories, the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament championship and a spot in the NCAA Tournament field.

With nine returning lettermen, including three starters, the Shockers won't likely sneak up on their league opponents this season as they head into the 1987-88 campaign figuring to be a title contender. But to match the success of a year ago, the Shockers will have to overcome the losses of three key players and develop some strength along the frontline.

"I think our kids know they can win," said Fogler, who earned MVC Coach of the Year honors in 1986-87. "But I've told them it will be tougher to be successful, particularly within our league, because we won't be looked at as a surprise like we were a year ago. People will say, 'That's Wichita State. They won the (MVC) Tournament; they were in the NCAA Tournament; they won 22 games.' We will take the best shot from teams, especially those in our league, because they now know we can play and be successful."

The Shockers, who fashioned a 22-11 record in 1986-87, return five of their top eight players. But counted among the losses are center Henry Carr, who led the team in scoring and rebounding, and heady guard Gary Cundiff, named the Outstanding Player in the MVC Tournament championship game. Also departed is forward Gus Santos, who ranked second on the team in rebounding and third in scoring. That means the Shockers must make up more than 45 percent of their scoring output and 40 percent of the rebounding.

"We lose our top two rebounders and that's probably the most important aspect of basketball," Fogler said. "You have to rebound well to be a good team. Our first concern this season will be rebounding."

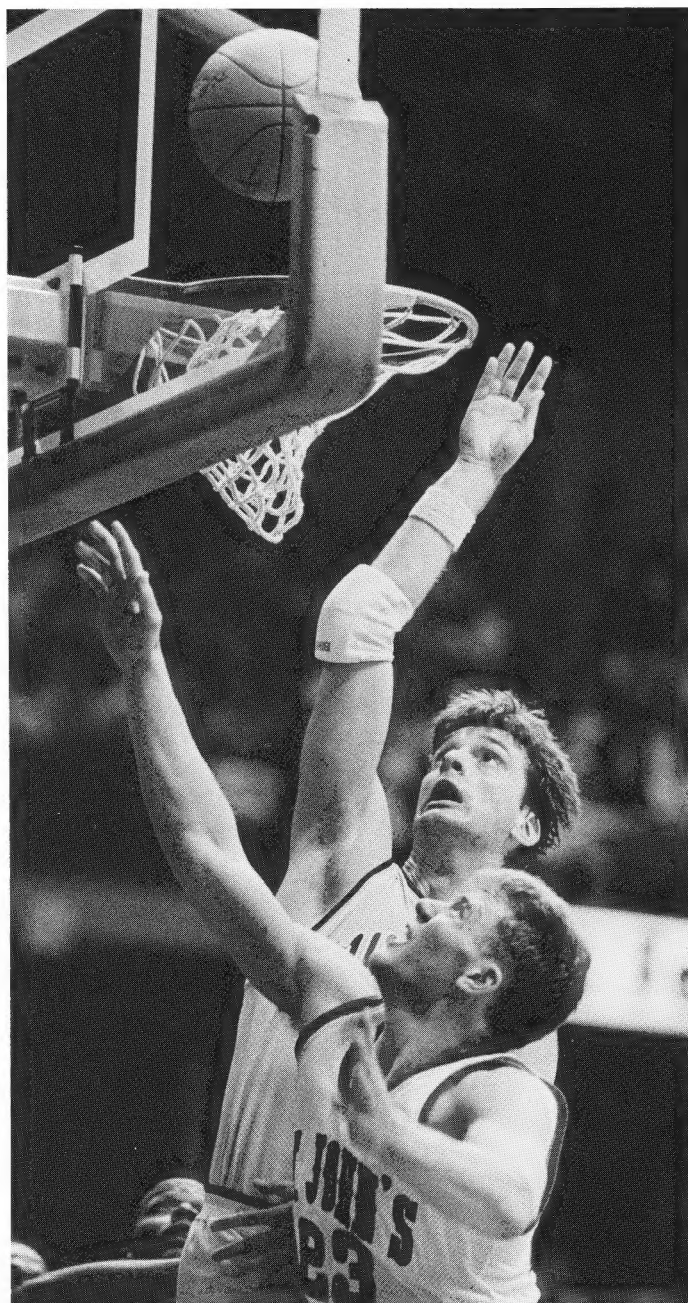
"Those three people contributed a lot to our success last year and they will be difficult to replace," Fogler added. "We lost a lot of the size we had, which I think presented a major problem for most of the teams we played. It's hard to teach people to grow, so we will probably have to go with a smaller team and be a little more perimeter oriented."

THE FRONT COURT

Two of the Shockers' three returning starters — Sasha Radunovich and Steve Grayer — are stationed along the frontline, but it is depth at the big forward and center positions that concerns Fogler.

Radunovich, a 6-foot-9 strongman from Yugoslavia, was the Shockers' most productive player down the stretch last season after adjusting to Fogler's system. The 235-pound junior, who earned honorable mention All-MVC honors for the second year in a row, averaged 18 points a game and shot better than 60 percent from the field over the final eight games. He is the team's leading returning scorer at 11.7 points a game.

Radunovich possesses the ability to be one of the top players in the Missouri Valley Conference should he maintain the pace with which he closed the 1986-87 season. However, he is likely to miss the preseason practice period after undergoing surgery in September to repair a torn tendon in his right elbow. His timetable for returning to playing status was unknown as the Shockers began season preparations on Oct. 15.



Sasha Radunovich was the Shockers' scoring leader down the stretch last season, averaging 18 points a game over the final eight games.

The 6-8 Grayer may split time between two positions this season after playing almost strictly at small forward a year ago. The junior from Macon, Ga., will learn the big forward position as well this season to help shore up the frontline depth.

Grayer is another player who performed well late last season, heeding Fogler's call for more aggressive play by averaging 10 points a game over the final six outings. For the season he averaged 8.9 points a game and proved to be an effective rebounder, particularly on the offensive end. Grayer showed improvement in his game in all areas last season and he could be a key player for the Shockers in 1987-88 with more consistency in his performances.

Two key reserves also return in forward Dwayne Praylow and center Tom Kosich. Praylow, a 6-5 junior, is one of the team's top defensive performers and a tough man on the backboards. The

Shockers may look to him even more this season, especially if he can improve his offensive output. Kosich, a 6-10 senior, provided valuable minutes in a backup role last year and should be counted on for similar production in 1987-88.

Fogler has some flexibility in the frontcourt at the small forward position. If necessary, he can utilize swing players like Dwight Praylow and Lew Hill and newcomer John Cooper, all of whom are 6-5 and shoot well.

To achieve the level of depth he would like at the big forward and center positions, Fogler said the Shockers must receive some production out of freshmen newcomers Aaron Davis, 6-7 from Willingboro, N.J.; Chip Thompson, 6-8 from Newtonville, N.J., and John Felter, 6-9 from Tunkhannock, Pa.

THE BACKCOURT

One of the strengths for the Shockers should be in the backcourt where the squad possesses experience, depth, size and versatility.

At the point is Joe Griffin, named the MVC's Outstanding Freshman a year ago after averaging 4.7 points and dishing out a Wichita State freshman-record 125 assists. The 6-0 sophomore from Summit, Ill., should only get better in his quarterbacking role but Fogler is looking for him to improve upon his outside shooting.

Dwight Praylow should battle for a starting position at the shooting guard spot. The 6-5 junior was another player who blossomed during the second half of last season in a sixth-man role and finished with a 7.8-point average. He is a threat from three-point range and with increased minutes this season could become a double-figure scorer.

Sophomore Brent Bass showed flashes of his potential in limited playing time in 1986-87. Fogler is expecting him to be a much improved player this season with a year's seasoning.

Seniors Cedric Coleman and Lew Hill give the Shockers valuable experience at the guard position. Coleman moved into the backcourt a year ago and will be hunting for increased playing time. Hill sat out last season with back and knee injuries after averaging 9.6 points a game in 1985-86.

A couple of newcomers, John Cooper of Kansas City, Mo., and Paul Guffrovich of Nanticoke, Pa., add to the team's strength in the backcourt. Both are good shooters who come from successful high school programs.

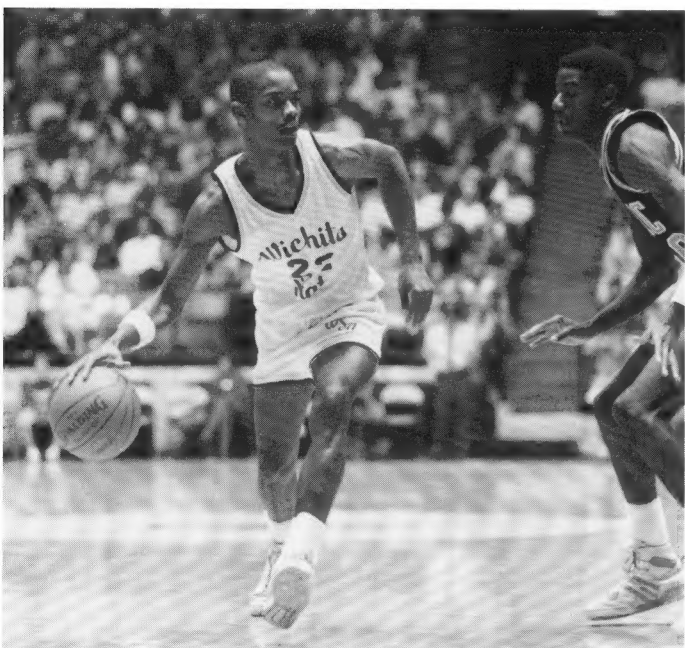


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Dwight Praylow has developed into a dangerous offensive threat at guard and is one of the team's strongest defenders.

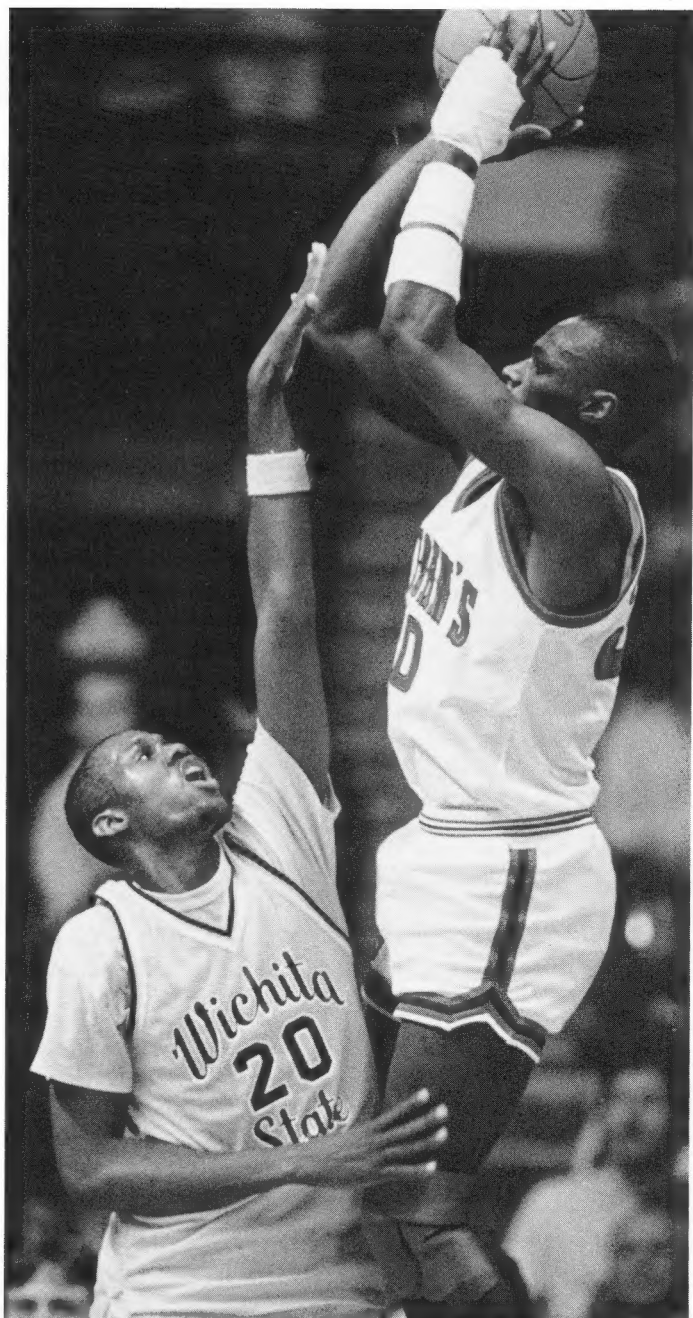


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Steve Grayer, a returning starter at forward, boosted his point production more than three points in 1986-87 while becoming a solid defensive performer in his sophomore season.

THE SCHEDULE

Wichita State, which won 16 of 17 games played in its 10,666-seat Levitt Arena last season, carries a 14-game home winning streak into its season opener Nov. 28 against Cal State-Northridge. The string will be seriously tested on Dec. 3 when defending Big Ten Conference champion and highly ranked Purdue comes calling to Wichita.

In all, the Shockers will face seven teams that participated in post-season play a year ago. In addition to Purdue, NCAA Tournament participants, Austin Peay (Dec. 17) and conference rival Tulsa (Feb. 18) play in Wichita, while the Shockers are set to travel to Southwest Missouri State (Jan. 4) and Kansas State (Jan. 19). Wichita State also has tests against Oregon State (Dec. 19) and MVC foe Illinois State, both of which appeared in the National Invitation Tournament last season.

Head Coach Eddie Fogler

It did not take Eddie Fogler long to make an impact in the collegiate coaching ranks and stamp his mark on Wichita State basketball.

In just his first season as a head coach, Fogler guided Wichita State to a 22-11 record — only the seventh 20-victory season in the 80 years of the university's basketball program — and the Missouri Valley Conference post-season tournament championship for a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

"He's one of the young, bright minds of basketball," long-time St. John's Coach Lou Carnesecca said of Fogler, whose Shocker team took Carnesecca's Big East Conference powerhouse to the wire before losing 57-55 in the final seconds in the opening round of the NCAA Midwest Regional.

Those who know Fogler likely were not surprised with the results he achieved with the Shockers in 1986-87. He brought to Wichita State a tireless work ethic and tremendous knowledge of the game gleaned from his 19 years as a player and coach under Dean Smith at the University of North Carolina. He also possesses an enthusiasm for coaching that was immediately recognized by Shocker fans and opponents.

Fogler took a team that had managed only a 14-14 record and a fifth-place finish in the Missouri Valley Conference in 1985-86 and built it into a solid title contender. The Shockers, third-place finishers in the regular season after being picked no better than fourth in preseason polls, charged to the NCAA Tournament by winning their last seven games. Wichita State capped the turnaround season with miracle comeback victories in its first two games of the MVC Tournament, then captured its second tourney championship in

three years by defeating regular-season champion Tulsa for the second time within the span of six days.

For his efforts in reviving the Shocker program, Fogler was voted the Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year, only the third Wichita State coach to be so honored and the first since Gary Thompson was named in 1965.

Of the 31 universities with coaches serving their first year at the Division I level in 1986-87 only Memphis State and St. Peter's scored more victories than Wichita State under Fogler, who became just the fourth Wichita State coach to win 20 games in a season. His 22 victories stand as the most by a Shocker first-year mentor and the sixth-highest total in Wichita State history.

Included among the highlights in Fogler's rookie season were homecourt victories over state rivals Kansas and Kansas State and triumphs over every Missouri Valley Conference team, including two against arch-rival Tulsa.

The Shockers regained their magic at home under Fogler, winning 16 of 17 games in Levitt Arena, including the last 14 in a row. The 16 homecourt victories stand as the second-highest total in the 32-year history of the famous Roundhouse.

Fogler is well aware that the key to continued success at Wichita State will be the ability to bring quality student-athletes to Wichita. He is committed to recruiting student-athletes who not only will succeed on the court but in the classroom as well.

"I'm concerned with winning basketball games, but I'm not going to do it at the expense of the integrity of the university or the exploitation of the student-athlete," Fogler said. "I want to win the



Eddie Fogler guided Wichita State to the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament championship and a berth in the NCAA Midwest Regional in his first year as a head coach. Only two other Division I teams had better records last year with a rookie coach.

Photo: Gregory Drezdon

right way. If a young man doesn't get his degree, we've exploited him. That's wrong."

Recruiting was one of the strengths Fogler brought with him to Wichita State. As a full-time assistant coach for 13 years at North Carolina, Fogler was a key man in the recruiting of such players as Michael Jordan, James Worthy, Sam Perkins, Brad Daugherty, Phil Ford, Mitch Kupchak, Steve Hale and Jeff Lebo.

Fogler was a playmaking guard on the North Carolina squads of 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 and still ranks as one of the school's all-time leaders in assists. He was a starter his final two seasons and was co-captain of the 1969-70 team. In his sophomore and junior seasons, the Tar Heels advanced to the Final Four, and North Carolina participated in the National Invitation Tournament his senior year.

During Fogler's coaching stint at North Carolina, the Tar Heels won or shared eight Atlantic Coast Conference championships, five ACC Tournament titles and were involved in post-season play each season.

In all, Fogler has participated in the Final Four as a player and coach six times. He helped coach the Tar Heels to the championship round in 1972, 1977, 1981 and 1982. North Carolina captured the national championship in 1982 with a memorable victory over Georgetown.

Fogler was raised in New York City and was twice named an all-city performer in basketball at Flushing High School. He received his degree in mathematics from North Carolina in 1970, then spent the next year teaching mathematics and coaching at DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Md. He served as the assistant varsity coach under the legendary prep coach Morgan Wootten and was the head junior varsity coach.

Fogler returned to North Carolina in 1971, where he served as a graduate assistant coach for two seasons before being promoted to a full-time assistant coaching position in 1973. He earned his master's degree in physical education in 1973.

Fogler, 39, is married to the former Robin Lee Sowell, of Richmond, Va. She is also a graduate of the University of North Carolina.

The Fogler Record

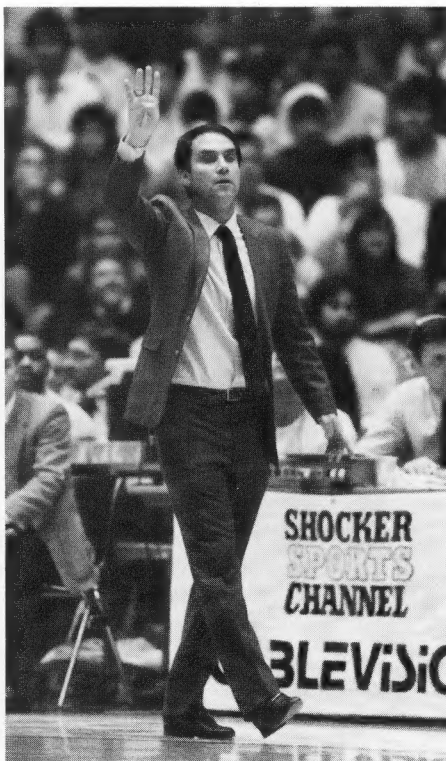
Years	School	Record	Pct.
1970-71	Assistant Coach DeMatha High School		
1971-73	Graduate Assistant Coach University of North Carolina		
1973-86	Assistant Coach University of North Carolina		
1986-87	Wichita State University	22-11	.667

Fogler's WSU Accomplishments

- Named the 1986-87 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year.
- Guided Wichita State to only its seventh 20-victory season in 80 years of its basketball program.
- Guided Wichita State to the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament championship. The Shockers were the first team to finish lower than second place (third) and capture the tournament title.
- Appeared in the NCAA Tournament in his first season.
- Became only the fourth Wichita State coach to win 20 games in a season.
- His 22 victories stand as the most by a first-year Shocker coach and the sixth-highest total in Wichita State history.
- Produced a 16-1 record at home, the second-most victories in the 32-year history of Levitt Arena.
- Posted victories over every Missouri Valley Conference opponent.
- Posted the third-most victories of the 31 coaches serving their first year at the Division I level in 1986-87.



Fogler played and coached under the legendary Dean Smith at North Carolina.



WSU recorded its seventh 20-victory season in Fogler's first year.



No other first-year coach in WSU history won more games than Fogler in 1986-87.

'Hunted' Shockers Live Up to Expectations

In just one season under Coach Eddie Fogler, the course of Wichita State basketball changed dramatically.

As one of the surprise teams of college basketball in 1986-87 the Shockers played the part of the hunter, sneaking up on their prey and bagging 22 victims. Such a performance sent out a clear message for the 1987-88 season.

The Shockers now stood among the hunted.

"Our kids know they can win," Fogler said prior to kicking off practice in October. "But I've told them it will be tougher to be successful because we won't be looked at as a surprise like we were a year ago. We will take the best shot from teams because they now know we can play and be successful."

At the preseason meeting of Missouri Valley Conference media and coaches in early November the Shockers were immediately targeted as one of the league favorites. They were picked to finish second behind the Bradley Braves.

In time, the coaches and media proved to be right about Wichita State. The Shockers finished 11-3 in the conference — just a game behind champion Bradley — while piecing together their second 20-victory season in a row and earning the second NCAA Midwest Regional appearance under Fogler. But, at the outset of the campaign, a 20-win season looked anything but possible.

First came the news on Aug. 31 that center Sasha Radunovich underwent elbow surgery to repair a torn tendon suffered in an automobile accident in Yugoslavia. Optimistically, it was thought that the Shockers' leading returning scorer would be lost until at least January; at worst he would be out for the season.

Instead, Radunovich recovered much more quickly than doctors anticipated. Although he missed most of the preseason practice period, he was in the starting lineup on Nov. 28 and scored 13 points when the Shockers drubbed Cal State-Northridge 78-53 in the season opener.

Also in the lineup that night was Lew Hill, the only senior starting for the Shockers. The 6-foot-5 forward sat out all of 1986-87 because of a back injury, and his value to the team at the beginning was unknown.

Oh, he became valuable, all right, eventually proving to be the Shockers' most dependable performer. He gave the Shockers consistent offense at better than 13 points a game and, more important, turned into the team's sparkplug on defense and a team leader off the court.

Wichita State took a 15-game homecourt winning streak into its second game against nationally ranked Purdue. Before a frenzied sellout crowd of 10,666 and a national cable television audience, the Shockers played at the top of their game. They sizzled from the field by nailing 53.4 percent of their shots and whistled in 10 three-pointers. They built an eight-point lead with just over four minutes to go... then faltered.

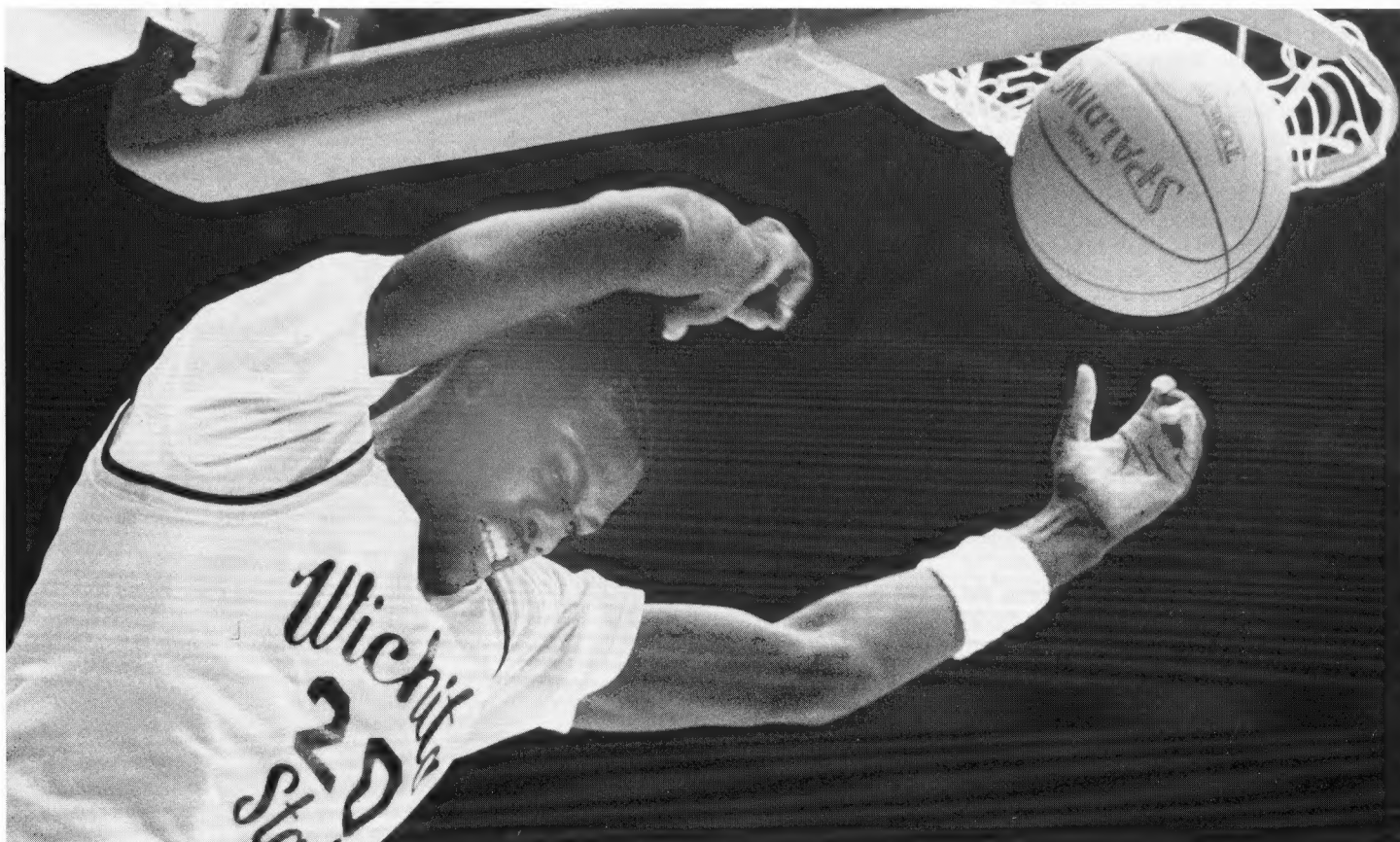
Purdue held the Shockers scoreless those final four minutes and rallied to tie the game. Still, the Shockers had a final chance at victory in regulation but Joe Griffin's jumper rimmed out at the buzzer. In overtime, the Boilermakers prevailed 80-78.

It was a setback from which the Shockers struggled to recover, emotionally and physically. Two nights later at George Mason they fell again in overtime 94-93. Again, Griffin missed the winning shot at the buzzer in regulation and had two shots fail to fall in the closing moments of overtime. The road trip continued at Hartford and again the Shockers lost in overtime. Steve Grayer made one of two free throws with two seconds left to extend the game to an extra period, but the Hawks pulled away for a 69-62 triumph.

Six days, three overtime games, three losses. At 1-3, the Shockers were off to a nightmarish start. They were games Wichita State could have — perhaps should have — won. Unfortunately, there would be a few more like those to come.

The unexpected slow start made the Dec. 12 contest against Grambling State a must game for the Shockers. What better way to get back on track than to return to friendly Levitt Arena, where the Shockers won 16 of 17 games in Fogler's first season as coach.

The 33-year-old roundhouse on the Wichita State campus has long been known as a death trap for visiting clubs. It would prove that way again in 1987-88. After falling to Purdue, the Shockers wouldn't lose another home game. They closed the campaign with 13 consecutive homecourt victories and compiled a 14-1 record overall in Levitt Arena.



Forward Steve Grayer put together a scoring tear in midseason during which he tied or led the team in scoring seven times in nine games, including a career-high 23-point output against Bradley. He ranked as the team's third-leading scorer at 12.2 points.

Photo: Gregory Drezdon

WICHITA STATE 63, TULSA 61

Feb. 26, 1987

Wichita, Kan.

ATTENDANCE: 10,431

TULSA	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP	WSU	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP
B. Rahilly, F.	2-8	0-0	4	5	4	Askew, F.	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moss, F.	11-19	1-2	5	4	27	Santos, F.	4-7	0-1	5	1	8
J. Rahilly, C.	4-8	0-0	5	4	8	Carr, C.	2-7	0-2	10	0	4
Moore, G.	6-17	0-0	4	4	12	Cundiff, G.	1-4	1-2	1	3	3
Boudreaux, G.	1-5	0-0	4	2	2	Griffin, G.	1-3	0-0	0	1	3
Parker.	2-3	2-2	0	0	6	Dwi Praylow.	4-10	2-3	2	2	11
Royster.	1-3	0-0	4	3	2	Grayer.	2-3	3-4	6	1	7
Buckwalter.	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	Radunovich.	8-13	9-11	9	3	27
						Dwa Praylow.	0-1	0-0	0	0	0

TOTALS..... 27-63 3-4 31 22 61

FG % — 42.9, FT % — 75.0

3-Point FG (4-9) — Moss 4-7, Boudreaux 0-2

HALFTIME: Wichita State 28, Tulsa 23

WICHITA STATE 73, CREIGHTON 70

Feb. 28, 1987

Wichita, Kan. (MVC Tournament)

ATTENDANCE: 6,078

CREIGHTON	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP	WSU	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP
Evans, F.	8-15	4-4	3	3	22	Grayer, F.	6-8	7-11	6	0	19
Eisner, F.	1-1	0-0	4	5	2	Radunovich, F.	6-10	3-5	5	1	15
Nygard, C.	2-6	1-1	7	5	5	Carr, C.	4-6	1-4	7	2	9
Swain, G.	9-14	0-1	3	3	20	Cundiff, G.	4-8	2-3	2	3	10
Mason, G.	6-10	6-6	4	5	19	Griffin, G.	0-1	2-3	3	1	2
Darcy.	0-0	0-0	1	5	0	Bass.	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Edwards.	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Dwi Praylow.	3-7	0-0	2	1	7
Moser.	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Kosich.	0-0	1-2	0	0	1
Roggenburk.	1-4	0-0	2	3	2	Dwa Praylow.	0-1	0-0	1	1	0
Pomeroy.	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	Santos.	3-7	4-6	5	4	10

TOTALS..... 27-50 11-12 24 31 70

FG % — 54.0, FT % — 91.7

3-Point FG (5-9) — Evans 2-3, Swain 2-3, Mason 1-1, Roggenburk 0-2

HALFTIME: Creighton 38, Wichita State 27

WICHITA STATE 56, ILLINOIS STATE 53

March 2, 1987

Wichita, Kan. (MVC Tournament)

ATTENDANCE: 6,572

ISU	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP	WSU	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP
Peterson, F.	4-6	0-0	10	4	8	Grayer, F.	1-2	2-5	5	0	4
Sanders, F.	0-10	0-0	8	3	0	Radunovich, F.	7-14	4-6	6	2	18
Coleman, C.	0-1	0-0	1	2	0	Carr, C.	3-3	2-4	5	3	8
Harris, G.	6-13	0-0	1	2	14	Cundiff, G.	4-8	0-0	1	2	8
Jackson, G.	1-1	0-0	1	1	2	Griffin, G.	1-6	0-0	2	0	2
Starks.	2-6	0-2	2	3	5	Bass.	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Taphorn.	1-2	0-0	3	3	2	Dwi Praylow.	3-6	0-0	1	1	7
Holifield.	8-11	6-6	4	2	22	Kosich.	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
						Dwa Praylow.	1-1	1-4	1	1	3
						Santos.	2-7	2-4	5	3	6

TOTALS..... 22-50 6-8 33 20 53

FG % — 44.0, FT % — 75.0

3-Point FG (3-6) — Harris 2-5, Starks 1-1

HALFTIME: Illinois State 33, Wichita State 21

WICHITA STATE 79, TULSA 74 (OT)

March 4, 1987

Tulsa, Okla. (MVC Tournament)

ATTENDANCE: 7,427

WSU	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP	TULSA	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP
Grayer, F.	6-12	2-3	10	0	14	B. Rahilly, F.	3-6	0-0	2	5	6
Radunovich, F.	2-6	6-6	1	4	10	Moss, F.	11-19	9-10	2	2	36
Carr, C.	0-3	2-2	1	4	2	J. Rahilly, C.	3-4	0-0	3	2	6
Cundiff, G.	6-7	2-2	2	0	17	Moore, G.	7-14	0-0	6	3	14
Griffin, G.	3-5	0-2	2	1	9	Boudreaux, G.	1-8	0-0	2	2	2
Dwi Praylow.	5-9	0-0	5	3	12	Parker.	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kosich.	1-1	0-0	2	2	2	Royster.	4-9	2-4	6	2	10
Dwa Praylow.	0-1	1-2	0	1	1	Loyd.	0-0	0-0	3	2	0
Santos.	5-7	2-3	3	1	12	Buckwalter.	0-0	0-0	0	1	0

TOTALS..... 28-51 15-20 31 16 79

FG % — 54.9, FT % — 75.0

3-Point FG (8-10) — Radunovich 0-1, Cundiff 3-3,

Griffin 3-3, Dwi Praylow 2-3

HALFTIME: Wichita State 35, Tulsa 34

ST. JOHN'S 57, WICHITA STATE 55

March 13, 1987

Rosemont, Ill. (NCAA Midwest Regional)

ATTENDANCE: 17,500

WSU	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP	ST. JOHN'S	FG-A	FT-A	REB	PF	TP
Grayer, F.	3-5	0-0	9	1	6	Glass, F.	9-15	0-0	4	1	18
Radunovich, F.	6-12	6-7	4	1	18	Jones, F.	1-7	1-2	5	4	3
Carr, C.	1-3	1-4	4	3	3	Bross, C.	1-2	0-0	0	3	2
Cundiff, G.	0-2	0-0	1	0	0	Brust, G.	3-3	0-0	5	3	6
Griffin, G.	2-4	0-0	2	1	6	Jackson, G.	6-18	3-3	3	2	15
Santos.	3-11	0-1	6	1	6	Baldi.	5-5	1-1	3	2	11
Dwi Praylow.	6-12	2-2	4	2	16	Hempel.	1-2	0-0	1	1	2
Dwa Praylow.	0-1	0-0	2	0	0	Lewis.	0-0	0-0	0	1	0

TOTALS..... 21-50 9-14 35 9 55

FG % — 42.0, FT % — 64.3

3-Point FG (4-10) — Radunovich 0-1, Cundiff 0-1,

Griffin 2-4, Santos 0-1, Dwi Praylow 2-3

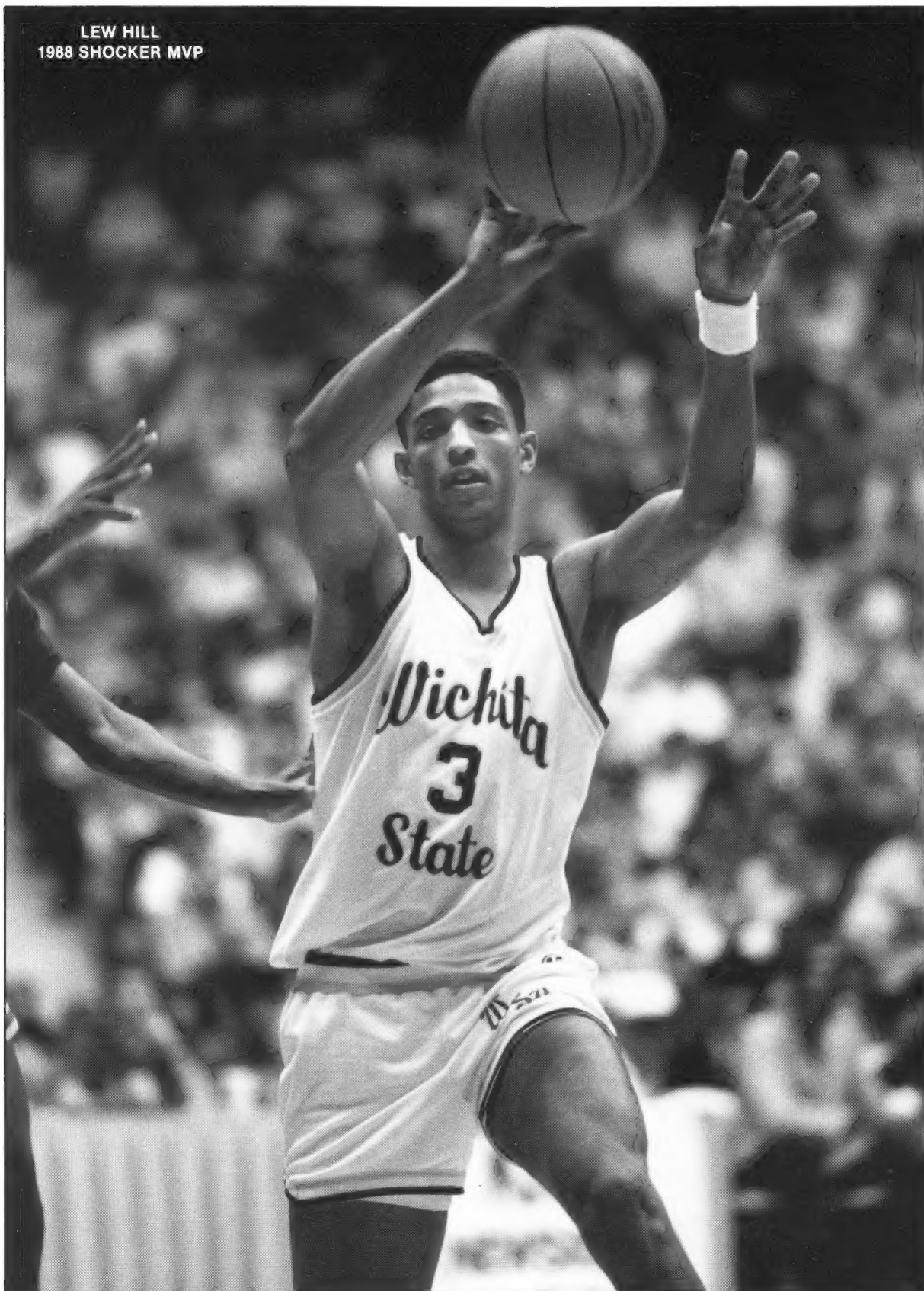
HALFTIME: St. John's 28, Wichita State 25



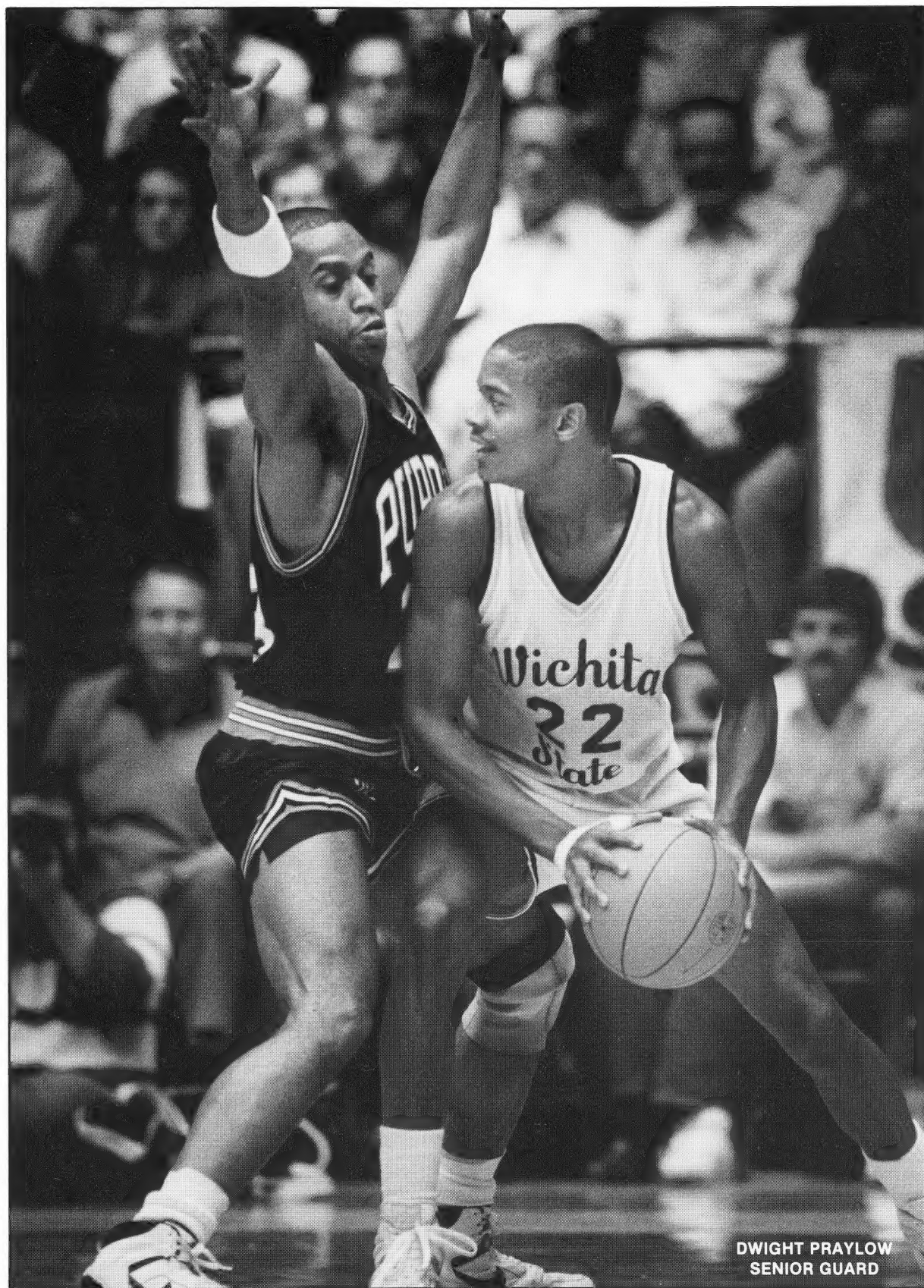
Henry Carr, center, leads cheers as the Shockers count down the final seconds in a MVC Tournament victory over Illinois State.

1987-88 In Review

LEW HILL
1988 SHOCKER MVP



The Opponents



DWIGHT PRAYLOW
SENIOR GUARD